

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-15 (Cancelled)

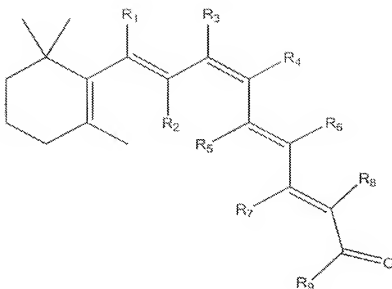
16. (Currently amended) A method of treating a human subject suffering loss of photoreceptor function, said method comprising:

administering an effective amount of an ~~opsin-binding synthetic retinoid~~ a 9-cis retinal derivative, wherein said derivative is a modification of the polyene chain but with retention of the polyene chain length and retention of the 9-cis bond, in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle to a human subject, with autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa due to expression of ~~expressing~~ a mutant opsin protein with a substitution of Proline 23 by Histidine (P23H mutant opsin protein), to treat loss of photoreceptor function in said subject.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~opsin-binding synthetic retinoid~~ retinal derivative is orally administered to the human subject ~~a vertebrate~~.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~opsin-binding synthetic retinoid~~ retinal derivative is locally administered to the human subject ~~a vertebrate~~.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~opsin-binding synthetic retinoid~~ comprises a synthetic retinoid of formula I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, or XIII retinal derivative has the structure



wherein R₁ to R₉ are the same or different, and are selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, C1 to C3 alkyl, hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl of C1 to C3, and/or branched alkyl.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is a 9-cis-7 ring retinal or an 11-cis-7 ring retinal each of R₁ to R₈ is hydrogen and R₉ is C1 alkyl.

21-34. (canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid retinal derivative is locally administered by eye drops.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid retinal derivative is locally administered by intraocular injection.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid retinal derivative is locally administered by periocular injection.

38-48. (canceled)

49. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the subject endogenously forms rhodopsin, from opsin and endogenous 11-cis-retinal, as a visual pigment.

50. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the subject endogenously forms rhodopsin, from opsin and endogenous 11-cis-retinal, as a visual pigment.

51. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising identifying the subject as expressing a mutant opsin protein with a substitution of Proline 23 by Histidine (P23H mutant opsin protein) before said administering.